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BOOK REVIEWS



IN CHARGE OF

M. E. CAMERON

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE, THE FAITH AND ITS FOUNDER. By Lyman P. Powell, Rector of St. John's Church, Northampton, Massachusetts. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York and London.

THE most astonishing spectacle that exists in the world to-day is the exposition of the growth of Christian Science, in numbers and capital, in the very heart of the highest civilization, of the most liberal and scholarly of the educated class in America. The Reverend Mr. Powell does not unravel the mysterious wonder of the thing by laying bare with the most ruthless sincerity the life of the founder of this most remarkable faith. As he shows her to us, we see a mean, and self-seeking character, continually sponging on her friends and relatives; for thirty years "beating" her way through life—indolent, mischief-making, exhausting the kindness and forbearance of the friends who afforded her a home and immunity from making any effort to earn her own living or to afford to her child the care and support which a parent owes it. Feeding her mind on the sickly literature of the "New York Ledger" was apparently the only preparation which this remarkable woman made for the remarkable position to which she elected herself at the age of fifty odd years. Of the authors who were her contemporaries and of whose names it was almost impossible to escape hearing she evidently knew little and cared less. It is recorded of her that she mentions Irving as the author of "Pickwick Papers." Never perhaps has there been a more convincing example of the truth of the old saying "ignorance and impudence go hand in hand."

Of the so-called "Faith" it is harder to get an impression from Mr. Powell's book than of its founder. It is not very clear just what Mrs. Eddy believes or rather what she would have her followers believe. Certain it is that she believed there exists no limit in the human mind, to credulity, to its power of assimilating the unbelievable, the monstrous. She believes apparently that human intelligence is incapable of affront, that tradition, history, the education of the ages all exist as little for others as they do for herself. This profound belief in the littleness of

things as measured by herself is of course a very ordinary thing, but the miraculous is that she finds in a few years her following numbers over a million.

At the age of eighty-six years this inscrutable old woman, who has been attacked on the one hand by the medical profession and on the other hand by the church, who is continually arraigned by the masses of the intelligent populace, sits counting her recruits—among whom she can reckon men of higher education than she is capable of estimating and money which flows in without being checked by the stringency of the times.

The failure of her "faith" to justify itself by cures, etc., does not apparently affect her following. They accept her explanations and bow to the inevitable.

Much has been written for and against Christian Science, the magazines have been in some instances monopolized by the claims and pretensions of the cult, the lawsuits, the temple, but so far as we know there is no work which embraces the whole subject so completely as the present one. Mr. Powell will not make any converts for Mrs. Eddy.

A **TEXT-BOOK OF PHYSIOLOGY.** By Isaac Ott, A.M., M.D., Professor of Physiology in the Medico-Chirurgical College of Philadelphia; Ex-Fellow in Biology Johns Hopkins University; Consulting Neurologist, Norristown Asylum, Pennsylvania; Ex-President of the American Neurological Association, etc. Second Edition Revised and Enlarged. F. A. Davis Company, Philadelphia.

THE second edition of Isaac Otts' Text-Book of Physiology appears only three years after making its first bow to the public. The present volume is increased over one-third of its original proportions. Much of the original text has been rewritten; much new matter has been added, including the latest developments in the science of physiology in all its branches, making the book thoroughly up to date as a reference and final authority on all questions relating to the study of physiology

A **MANUAL FOR HOSPITAL NURSES AND OTHERS ENGAGED IN ATTENDING THE SICK.** By Edward I. Domville, L.R.C.P., London, M.R.C.S., England. Surgeon to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital; Lecturer and Examiner St. John's Ambulance Association. Ninth Edition. Blakiston's Sons, Philadelphia. Price, Seventy-five cents.